

Message Text

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44

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /092 W

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R 030909Z JUL 76

FM US DEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1666

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0208

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0351

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O., TAGS ANDSUBJ LINE OMITTED)

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD

JUNE-28 - JULY 4, 1976

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE JUNE 29 INFORMAL SESSION OF
SECRET

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THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATIONS, SOVIET REP
KHLESTOV REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED BY WESTERN
REPS CONCERNING DATA TABLED BY THE EAST JUNE 10,
STATING THAT THE EAST WAS UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THESE

DATA UNTIL THE WEST HAD TABLED COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR NATO FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. DURING THE JULY 1 POST-PLenary PRESS BRIEFING, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN, RESPONDING TO AN APPARENTLY PLANTED INQUIRY, CONFIRMED THE JUNE 10 TABLING OF EASTERN DATA, BUT DID NOT PROVIDE THE ACTUAL NUMBERS. IN THE ONLY STATEMENT MADE AT THE JULY 1 PLENARY MEETING, BULGARIAN REP DICHEV EMPHASIZED THE EAST'S DESIRE THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS UNDERTAKE FROM THE OUTSET CONCRETE REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS AND CITED WESTERN PRESS ACCOUNTS IN PLAYING DOWN THE MILITARY VALUE OF THE WEST'S DECEMBER 16 NUCLEAR OFFER. END SUMMARY.

2. WESTERN REPS OPENED THE JUNE 29 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS WITH FIVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS CONCERNING DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES TABLED BY THE EAST ON JUNE 10. SOVIET REP KHELSTOV POLITELY, BUT FIRMLY REFUSED TO RESPOND. HE STATED THE EAST WAS NOT WILLING TO ENTER INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE JUNE 10 DATA UNTIL THE WEST HAD PROVIDED COMPARABLE FIGURES ON THE OVERALL MANPOWER OF ALL NATO STATES HAVING FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE PLUS DATA FOR THE GROUND FORCE MANPOWER OF THESE STATES.

3. THE BALANCE OF THE JUNE 29 INFORMAL SESSION CONCERNED REDUCTION COMMITMENTS BY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE US AND SOVIET UNION. WESTERN REPS MADE THE POINT THAT, DESPITE EASTERN CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY, THE EAST WAS STILL SEEKING UNDER ITS FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL SPECIFIC AND COMPREHENSIVE FIRST STAGE COMMITMENTS FROM NON-U.S. WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN A SECOND STAGE. EASTERN REPS-ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GENERAL COMMITMENT REQUIRED OF THESE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN STAGE ONE INCLUDED (A) A COMMITMENT TO FREEZE THEIR ARMED FORCES NOW; (B) A COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES DURING 1977-78; AND (C) A COMMITMENT TO A FINAL
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OUTCOME IN WHICH ALL WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE REDUCED THEIR FORCES BY AN EQUAL PERCENTAGE. EASTERN REPS AVOIDED A DIRECT REPLY TO THE QUESTION WHETHER THESE THREE POINTS COMPRISED THE SOLE OBLIGATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY NON-U.S. WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN A FIRST STAGE AGREEMENT. KHELSTOV ONCE AGAIN INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE EAST WOULD CONSIDER ANY ALTERNATIVE WESTERN FORMULA WHICH, UNLIKE THE COMMITMENTS CURRENTLY OFFERED BY THE WEST, ACTUALLY GUARANTEED THAT REDUCTIONS BY NON-U.S. WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD TAKE PLACE.

4. AT THE ROUTINE PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING THE JULY 1

PLENARY MEETING, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN, IN RESPONSE TO AN APPARENTLY PLANTED QUESTION FROM A BULGARIAN CORRESPONDENT REFERRING TO WESTERN PRESS LEAKS, ANNOUNCED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD TABLED DATA DURING THE JUNE 10 PLENARY. WITHOUT PROVIDING THE ACTUAL FIGURES, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN PORTRAYED THE EASTERN DATA MOVE AS A CONCESSION TO THE WEST. HE ADDED THAT THE EAST STILL AWAITED A WESTERN RESPONSE AND, IN REPLY TO FURTHER QUESTIONS, SAID THAT THE FIGURES MENTIONED IN THE PRESS DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THOSE THE EAST HAD TABLED. IN THE COURSE OF ANSWERING QUERIES ABOUT THE WESTERN POSITION ON THE ISSUE, THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN NOTED THE ESISTENCE OF SIGNIFICANT DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN DATA WHICH NEEDED TO BE CLARIFIED AND EXPRESSED THE WEST'S CONFIDENCE IN ITS FIGURES.

5. BULGARIAN REP DICHEV MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT GIVEN AT THE JULY 1 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION EMPHASIZED THE EASTERN DESIRE THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS UNDERTAKE FROM THE OUTSET CONCRETE REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS. BULGARIAN REP CRITICIZED THE WEST'S DECEMBER 16 NUCLEAR OFFER AS AN INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO THE NEED FOR ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS. HE CITED PUBLIC SOURCES, INCLUDING PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE LATEST MEETING OF NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS, AS PROOF THAT THE WARHEADS THE WEST NOW PROPOSED TO REDUCE WERE OBSOLETE AND HAD BEEN MADE SUPERFLUOUS BY THE CURRENT
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MODERIZATION OF U.S. NUCLEAR FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. DICHEV, AS A FLANK REPRESENTATIVE, STRESSED THE VALUE OF THE DISBANDED PROVISION OF THE FEBRUARY 19 EASTERN PROPOSAL AND CALLED UPON WESTERN FLANK PARTICIPANTS TO REASSISS CORRECTLY ITS MILITARY IMPORTANCE.RESOR

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PRAGUE
SOFIA
STOCKHOLM
WARSAW
SALT TWO GENEVA
ANKARA
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